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Ed Begley Jr. to speak at Georgia Southern University Feb. 16

FEBRUARY 5, 2009



Actor and activist Ed Begley Jr. will speak at Georgia Southern University on Monday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center on campus.

Begley, a six-time Emmy-nominated actor and current star of "Gary Unmarried" and "Living with Ed," will present his theme, "Live Simply So That Others Can Simply Live," as part of LivinGreen Month. He is the third speaker in Georgia Southern's Sustainability Seminar Series.

"We are excited to have such an inspiring and entertaining leader in environmental education share his knowledge with the campus community," said Nigel Davies, Director of the University Wellness Program.

Few people are known for having Begley's track record of taking personal responsibility for the environment. Known for turning up at Hollywood events on his bicycle, he has served as chairman of the Environmental Media Association and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Begley serves on the boards of a variety of organizations including the Thoreau Institute, the Earth Communications Office, Tree People and Friends of the Earth.

Begley's work has earned awards from numerous environmental groups including the California League of Conservation Voters, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Coalition for Clean Air, Heal the Bay, the Santa Monica Baykeeper, and the Southern California Gas Company. His hit HGTV series "Living with Ed" looks at the day-to-day realities of "living green" with his not-so-environmentalist wife Rachelle Carson.

Begley will speak for approximately 30 minutes and then answer audience questions. He will sign books and DVDs, which are on sale at the University Store, in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center beginning at approximately 8 p.m.

Begley's visit is co-sponsored by the University Wellness Program, the Office of Sustainability in the Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology, and Campus Recreation and Intramurals. For more information please see go to: <http://welcome.georgiasouthern.edu/wellness/livingwithEd.html>.

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers 116 degree programs serving nearly 18,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University, one of Georgia's largest, is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars and is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu. - See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1762#sthash.ckQiuHD5.dpuf>

Georgia Southern University College of Information Technology Offers Students High-Demand Certificate

FEBRUARY 5, 2009



Georgia Southern University College of Information Technology students are not only graduating with a competitive edge, but saving employers thousands of dollars in the process. Georgia Southern is one of the rare universities in the country, and the only in the state of Georgia, that includes a SAP Certificate as part of its curriculum. This provides a major competitive edge for graduates as they begin their job search.

SAP AG, headquartered in the EU (Waldorf, Germany) and is the third largest software enterprise in the world in terms of revenues. SAP is currently used by more than 35,000 companies and with new products targeting small and medium enterprises. Its customer base is projected to include more than 100,000 companies by 2010. Other institutions that award a SAP Certificate include the University of Southern California, Louisiana State University and the University of Central Florida to name a few. Only a handful of other institutions in the U.S. offer an equivalent number of SAP-approved courses and have a comparable level of SAP integration in their curriculum.

"Being able to include a SAP Certificate as part of Georgia Southern's curriculum provides students with hands-on experience with SAP products and solutions that are used by thousands of the world's major companies," said Tom Case, professor and chair, Information Systems Department in the College of Information Technology at Georgia Southern University. "The state of Georgia serves as the corporate headquarters for numerous corporations that are heavy users of SAP including Coca Cola, Georgia Pacific, Home Depot and Newell Rubbermaid. Our SAP Certificate gives students a true competitive edge in the marketplace and provides SAP user organizations with a valued pool of SAP-experienced talent that is rarely found in recent university graduates."

Georgia Southern has partnered with SAP's University Alliance to enable students to use and understand SAP products. Through hands-on experience with SAP solutions, students gain insight into how SAP and other enterprise solutions can empower a business to optimize key processes such as accounting and controlling, human capital management, materials management, and sales and distribution. Students who complete three SAP-approved courses are eligible to receive a SAP Certificate signed by SAP America. Information Systems majors in the Enterprise Resources Planning Emphasis typically receive this certificate as part of their normal course work. The SAP Certificate may also be earned by undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students who minor in Information Systems.

"Employers would typically have to spend significant amounts of money to provide an employee with a comparable SAP skill-base as that obtained by students who earn our SAP Certificate," said Case. "We are one of the few universities in the country using SAP this extensively and we are receiving a lot of interest from prospective students and working professionals. Our graduates are in high demand and many are receiving multiple job offers with major companies." In the past two years, BMW, Georgia Pacific, and UnderArmour are just a few of the companies that have come to campus to recruit Georgia Southern students pursuing their SAP Certificate. Georgia Southern students have also completed SAP internships at IBM, JCB, Shell and ZEP.

Georgia Southern is currently working with Coldwater Creek, headquartered in Boise, Idaho, to establish an ongoing relationship to help the company satisfy its demand for new workers with SAP skills. David Edwards, divisional vice president for Business and Technology Alignment at Coldwater Creek says, "We are working directly with Georgia Southern University because they not only recognize our needs, but are preparing their students to be immediate contributors once they graduate. In today's challenging business environment, the ability to recruit students that already have hands-on SAP experience is a major cost savings."

For more information about Georgia Southern University's Information Systems program or SAP Certificate courses, visit: <http://cit.georgiasouthern.edu/is>

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